

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAEO-00
FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
OMB-01 PM-04 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10
NRC-07 PA-02 PRS-01 EUR-12 EA-09 IO-14 /144 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4712
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL MADRAS
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 9990

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG TECH IN
SUBJECT: INDIAN PRESS COMMENT ON US NUCLEAR POLICY

1. CHARACTERIZING THE US DECISION TO SHIP ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL TO INDIA AS A "REPRIEVE" FOR THE TARAPUR ATOMIC POWER PLANT, AN EDITORIAL IN THE JULY 13 EDITION OF THE HINDU (MADRAS) NEVERTHELESS NOTED THAT "ALTHOUGH NO CONDITION IS ATTACHED TO THE PRESENT SUPPLY, THE US IS BREATHING SOMEWHAT HEAVILY DOWN THE NECK OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PRESSING ON INDIA TO PLACE ALL ITS NUCLEAR FACILITIES UNDER INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS." THE EDITORIAL OBSERVED THAT COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE REFUSED TO SIGN THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY ARE BEING "SQUEEZED" BY THE SUPPLIERS OF NUCLEAR FUEL, INCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION, AND CONCLUDED THAT "INDIA'S CONTINUED ABILITY TO WITHSTAND EXTERNAL PRESSURES DEPENDS GREATLY ON THE SPEED WITH WHICH SELF-RELIANCE IS REACHED IN THIS CRUCIAL SECTOR." THE HINDU THEREFORE URGED THE GOI TO PRESS FORWARD RESEARCH

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TO DEVELOP A DOMESTIC NUCLEAR FUEL PRODUCTION CAPABILITY BASED ON THORIUM FOUND IN KERALA'S MONAZITE SAND.

2. AN EDITORIAL IN THE JULY 14 EDITION OF THE STATESMAN NOTED THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF FAST BREEDER REACTORS BY SEVERAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND JAPAN, DESPITE PRESIDENT CARTER'S ANNOUNCED OPPOSITION TO SUCH

REACTORS AND HIS DECISION TO HALT COMMERCIAL REPROCESSING OF SPENT REACTOR FUEL IN THE US. WHILE ALLOWING THAT US FUEL SUPPLY POLICIES COULD AND HAD ALREADY Affected OTHER NATIONS' NUCLEAR PLANS, THE STATESMAN EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT US RESTRICTIONS ON NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLIES ARE LIKELY TO STRENGTHEN THE RESOLVE OF OTHER NATIONS TO DEVELOP FAST BREEDER REACTORS. IT CONCLUDED THAT THE WIDESPREAD DEVELOPMENT OF BREEDER REACTOR AND FUEL REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGIES IS REDUCING THE US ABILITY TO RESTRICT THE SPREAD OF PLUTONIUM.GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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